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GENEALOGICAL MEMOIRS

OF THE

FAMILIES OF COLT AND COUTTS

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OF THE

FAMILIES OF COLT AND COUTTS

BY THE

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FELLOW OF THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY, FELLOW OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND, FELLOW OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NORTHERN ANTIQUARIES, COPENHAGEN; FELLOW OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, ASSOCIATE OF THE IMPERIAL ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF RUSSIA, MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEBEC, MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA, AND CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ENGLAND

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GENEALOGICAL MEMOIRS.

FAMILIES OF THE NAME OF COLT IN ENGLAND.

In Domesday Book we find, among the possessions of Earl Roger in Staffordshire, the lands of Colt and Coltone, while lands in Coltune, in the same county, were held by Robert de Stafford. The names Reginald le Colt, in Shropshire; Robert Colt, son of Richard Colt, in the county of Canterbury; William le Colt, in Wilts; and Ranulph Colt, in Norfolk, occur during the reign of Edward I.[1]

Thomas Colt, in the reign of Edward IV., owned extensive estates in the counties of Essex and Suffolk. He died in 1476, and was buried in Roydon Church, Essex.[2] The estate of Nether Hall, Essex, was acquired in the reign of Edward IV. In the thirteenth year of Edward IV.'s reign, we find among the inquisitions one of "Johanna, who was the wife of William Parre, knight, formerly married to Thomas Colt," and the tofts there referred to were at Carlisle and Raughton in Cumberland. In an inquisition of the fifteenth year, in which she

[1] Domesday Book, *sub* "Statfordscire;" Rotuli Hundredorum, i. 531; ii. 87, 276, 357.

[2] Wright's History of Essex, vol. ii., pp. 299, 300.

is similarly designated, there appears an extensive list of possessions in Berkshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Essex, and Suffolk.[1]

Colts of Newhall.

Thomas Colt was succeeded by his son, John Colt of Newhall, whose daughter Jane married Sir Thomas More. A quaint account of the union is given in the "Life of Moore," by M. T. M.,[2] a great-grandson of Sir Thomas:

"Sir Thomas More, hauing determined by the aduise and direction of his ghostlie father to be a married man, there was at that time a pleasant conceipted gentleman of an ancient familie in Essex, one Mr. John Colte of Newhall, from whome Sr. Henry Colt that now liueth, is lineally descended, that inuited him to his house, being much delighted in his companie, and proffered vnto him the choyce of anie of his daughters, who were young gentlewomen of verie good carriadge and complexions, and very religiously inclined, whose honest and sweete conuersation, whose vertuous education enflamed Sir Thomas not a little; and although his affection most serued him to the second, for that he thought her the fayrest and fauoured; yet when he thought with himselfe, that this would be a griefe and some blemish in the eldest, to see her yonger sister preferred before her, he, of a kinde of compassion, settled his fancie vpon the eldest, and soone after married her, with all her friends' good liking.

"Now when he began to be clogged with wife and familie, children also began to growe fast vpon him; for his wife, whose name was Jane Colt, as long as she liued with him, which was but some six yeares, brought vnto

[1] Cal. Inquis. post mortem, Richard II., p. 72. For several interesting notices of Thomas Colt, and others of the name, see "Materials for History of Henry VII." (Rolls series), vol. i., p. 127, etc.

[2] Pp. 46-48. This posthumous work is dedicated to "the High and Mightie Princesse, our Most Gratious Queene and Soveraigne, Marie Henriette, Queene of Great Britaine, France, and Irland, Ladie of the Iles of the British Ocean."

him almost euerie yeare a childe, for whose maintenance he applyed himself busily to the practise of the law; and because he would haue his wife neare vnto his father, he placed her in Bucklers-bury. By her he had one sonne called John More, my owne grandfather, who was his youngest childe, and three daughters; his eldest daughter, Margaret, a woman of singular witt and wisedome, rare pietie, and extraordinarie learning, was wife vnto William Rooper of Eltham in the countie of Kent, esquier, whose grandechilde now liuing is Sir William Rooper; his second daughter called Elizabeth was afterward matched with Sir John Dancy's sonne and heyre; the third called Cicilie was married to Mr Giles Heron of Shakelwell in the countie of Middlesex, esquier; his sonne, my grandfather, married Anne Cresacre, sole daughter and heyre of Edward Cresacre, deceased, of Baronborough, in the countie of Yorke, esquier."

Colts of Leominster.

The Leominster branch meets the main line in George, son of Sir Henry Colt. George Colt is the last member of the family known to have possessed Nether Hall, in Essex. He spent his fortune in the Stuart cause during the seventeenth century, and parted with the estate of Colt Hall (known as Grey's Hall before it was acquired by the family of Colt), in Suffolk, and others.[1] He died in 1678, and the baronets of Leominster are descended from his son, John Dutton Colt. The present representative is the Rev. Sir Edward Harry Vaughan Colt, Bart.

Colts of Hants.

In Hants another branch was represented in the sixteenth century by Roger Colt of Woday, who, in 1524, married Mary, daughter of John Norris, esquire. His descendant, Stephen Colt, had an only child, Susan, who became the second wife of Mr Henry Hoare, banker, London. By

[1] Page's Supplement to the Suffolk Traveller. Ipswich, 1844.

him she had issue—Susannah, who married, first, Charles, Viscount Dungarvon; secondly, Thomas, first Earl of Aylesbury; Anne, who in March 1756 married Sir Richard Hoare, Bart., by whom she had a son, Sir Richard Colt Hoare, the famous antiquary. Sir Richard, the antiquary, married Hester, daughter of the first Lord Lyttelton, and their descendant and present representative is Sir Henry Ainslie Hoare, Bart. of Barn-Elms, Surrey, and Stourhead, Bath.

Colts of Herts.

Another branch of the family of Colt is found in Herts, so early as the close of the fifteenth century. In the opening years of the sixteenth century, John Colt was a priest of some distinction in the shire; and about the same time Mary L'Isle, a member of the ancient family of De Insula, married John Colt, and had by him a son, Thomas. A marble monument was erected in St Mary's, Rickmansworth, by Frances, a daughter of Ralph Woodcocke, an alderman of London, to her husband, with an inscription bearing that "John Colte, late of Rickmersworth, in the county of Hertford, esquier, son and heir of Roger Colte, esquier, . . . departed this life the 29th of April, anno Domini 1610, being about thirty-two years of age." Their children were—John, Rowland, Thomas, Mary, Ursula, Mary, and Elizabeth.[1]

John Colt of Rickmansworth married Anne, daughter of Alberico Gentilis, the distinguished writer on international law, who settled in England in the sixteenth century, and became professor of civil law at Oxford.

[1] Clutterbuck's History of Hertford, i. 204; iii. 199, etc.

EARLY TRACES IN SCOTLAND.

William Culte de Strathawan swore fealty to Edward I. in 1296;[1] his lands of Strathavon, Lanarkshire, now form part of the estate of the Duke of Hamilton. A probable descendant, John de Colt,[2] is, in connection with the lands of Restalrig, named in a charter of David II., dated at Edinburgh, 22d June 1367. He died in that year, leaving two sons, John de Coult and Donald de Coult, who, in a general council held at Perth on the 26th March 1392, were named as being concerned in the slaughter of Sir Walter de Ogilvy and others.[3] The barony of the family in Perthshire, called Cult or Colt, was seized by the Crown, except a small portion which belonged to one of the sons of John de Colt, who was allowed to retain it. The estate of Cults, in Aberdeenshire, passed from the male line of the house through the marriage, in 1390, of the heiress, Catherine Coult, with Sir John Forbes of Ardmurdo.[4]

COULT, COLT, OR COUTTS OF AUCHTERCOUL.

Early Members.

The barony of Auchtercoul, Aberdeenshire, or a portion of it, belonged to Alexander Colt, son of the outlawed John de Colt, already mentioned as having been connected with the slaughter of Sir Walter de Ogilvy. Alexander Colt had a son, John, who had with other issue, two sons, Thomas and William. William is designated "de Coult;" he had a son, Sir William. Thomas, designed of Auchter-

[1] Ragman Rolls, 166.
[2] Reg. Mag. Sig.
[3] Acta Parl. Scot., i. 579.
[4] Forbes Genealogies, by Walter Macfarlane, MSS., Advocates Library.

coul, is witness to a charter, dated 6th May 1455. John, eldest son of Thomas Cowtis of Auchtercoul, is, with his son, "John Cowtis, junior," named in a charter granted by Alexander Fraser of Philorth, 8th May 1482.[1]

A member of the Auchtercoul branch, Master William de Coultis, vicar of Tarlane, is named as witness to a deposition in 1466.[2] On the 16th December 1494, Duncan Forbes prosecuted an action against Sir William Coutis, vicar of Invernochty, and others, for withholding from him the lease of the lands of Invernochty and Ballebeg in the earldom of Mar.[3]

Alexander Cowtis.

At an inquest of exceptions in 1505, Alexander Cowtis of Ochtercoule is named with other landowners of the district.[4]

John Cowtis.

In 1549 Queen Mary confirmed a charter by "John Cowtis of Ouchtercowlle" to Margaret, daughter of Alexander Forbes of Tolleis (Towie), his future wife, of "the lands of Ouchtercowle," and others in Cromar.[5]

Robert Cowtis.

On the 31st July 1553, Robert Cowtis was served heir of John Cowtis, his brother-german, in the lands of Auchtercoul and others.[6] Robert Couttis of Auchtercoull is named among the "erllis, lordis, baronis, lauditmen," and others, who, on the 2d September 1574, rendered allegiance to James VI., and to the regent, the Earl of Morton, and promised co-operation for the repression of treason and other crimes, such as "witchecraft, ydolatre, inbringing and outputting of fals and corrupt money."[7]

A John Coult in 1610 grants to his wife the lands of

[1] Robertson's Collections, Spalding Club, iv. 90.
[2] *Ibid.*, iii. 323.
[3] *Ibid.*, iv. 90.
[4] *Ibid.*, iii. 103.
[5] *Ibid.*, iv. 90.
[6] Inquis. Spec., Aberdeen, 17.
[7] Privy Council Records, ii. 401.

Arnage, in the county of Aberdeen. A George Coult of Auchtercoul appears as witness at the baptisms of Mr Adam Colt's children, at Inveresk, a son being baptized George in 1614.

In 1621, William Coutts, "appearand of Auchtercoull," and Janet Gordon, his wife, obtained a charter of the historic estate of Ardtannies from John Leslie, the unfortunate baronet of Wardes; and in the following year they were infeft therein. William Coutts appears in 1622 as residing at Ardtannies, and on 15th October of that year their son, Alexander, was baptized, one of the witnesses being Sir Alexander Gordon of Cluny, father of Janet Gordon.[1] William Coutts.

Among the birth brieves preserved in the Burgh Registers of Aberdeen, 1637-1705, is the following:

"23d July 1646, in presens of George Cullen, baillie. The said day it wes verified and provin be the witnessis vnderwreitin, viz., Doctor William Guild, principall of King's Colledge in Old Aberdein, and Gilbert Skein of Dyce, that James Couts, sometyme merchant in Crosna, in the kingdom of Poll, now resident at Dansik, is lauchfull sone to vmquhill Robert Couts of Auchtercoull, procreat betuixt him and vmquhill Jeane Gordon, his lauchfull spous, in the holie band of matrimony; and that the said vmquhill Robert Couts of Auchtercoull his mother wes Issobell Forbes, lauchfull dochter to vmquhill Alex. Forbes of New; and the said Robert Couts his father wes Robert Couts of Auchtercoull, whose mother wes —— Gordon, dochter to the Laird of Craig; and that the said Issobell Forbes hir mother wes Jeane Lumisdane, dochter to the Laird of Cushny; and that the said vmquhill Jeane Gordon, mother to the said James Couts, was dochter to John James Coutts.

[1] Davidson's Inverurie and the Earldom of the Garioch, 1878, pp. 177, 213.

Gordon of Carneborrow; and that the said Jon's mother wes —— Drumond, dochter to the Lord of Madertie; and that the said Jeane Gordon hir mother wes dochter to Alex^r Bannerman of Watertoun. Quhairvpon the baillie foirsaid ordanit ane testimoniall to be drawin vp vnder the toun's secreit seall, in forme as effeirs."[1]

Auchtercoul remained in the family of Coutts till 1729, when it was acquired at a judicial sale by William, second Earl of Aberdeen, for the sum of £65,937.

BRANCHES OF COLT OF AUCHTERCOUL.

Members of the Auchtercoul family engaged in agricultural pursuits in Aberdeenshire and other northern counties.

At the beginning of the sixteenth century, persons of that name appear as tenants under the convent of Cupar. In 1514 "Wilzam Cowtis" obtained a lease of the sixteenth part of Cambok; and a few years later, John Cowtis is mentioned as a portioner of the same lands.[2]

Charles Coutts, who, at the close of the eighteenth century, rented the farm, Balloch of Aberardrie, on the estate of Invercauld, Aberdeenshire, had several sons, two of whom, James and Daniel, settled in the county of Forfar. Successful in trade, James Coutts purchased the estates of Whiteshiel in Glenisla, and Couttsfield, in the parish of Oathlaw. He died 8th November 1851, aged seventy-two, and was succeeded in his estates by his only child, James Webster Coutts solicitor, Kirkcudbright.

James Coutts.

Daniel Coutts, a merchant at Dundee, purchased lands at

[1] Miscellany of the Spalding Club, v. 330.

[2] Rental Book of Cupar (printed for the Grampian Club), 1879, vol. i., pp. 293, 300.

Blackscroft, in that town; he died in 1857, and was succeeded in his possessions by his eldest son, James Douglas Coutts.

Sons of a crofter at Cromar, in Deeside, were Alexander and Francis Coutts, the former of whom settled at Rubislaw, near Aberdeen, and had several sons. Francis, the younger brother, settled at Banff, where he died 17th November 1860, aged seventy-three; his wife, Jean Bruce, predeceased him on 25th August 1845.[1] Their son, Mr William Coutts, is a banker in Banff, and provost of the burgh.

COUTTS OF MONTROSE.

(*Probably branch of Auchtercoul.*)

Early in the seventeenth century members of the family of Coutts, probably of Auchtercoul, are found settled at Montrose as merchant burgesses. William Cowtes or Coutts, who is supposed to have married Janet Ochiltree, was father of three sons—David, baptized 10th July 1641; John, baptized 6th April 1643; and Robert, baptized 12th July 1651; also of a daughter, Margaret, baptized 25th February 1645.[2]

Provost John Coutts.

John Coutts, who appears to have been a younger brother of William Coutts, was a merchant in Montrose. He was a bailie of that burgh in 1672, and held office as provost in 1678. In 1686 he was, under the designation of John Coutts of Phalertoun (Fullarton), by Act of Par-

[1] Epitaphs in Banff Churchyard.

[2] Montrose Par. Reg. Another opinion is entertained as to the origin of the family of Coutts of Montrose. According to this, William Coutts, the husband of Janet Ochiltree, is supposed to be a son of William Couts, nephew of Adam Colt of Inveresk, and Janet Harkiss, who were married at Musselburgh in 1606.

liament appointed a commissioner of supply for the county of Forfar.[1] By a charter under the great seal he was, on 1st March 1678, infeft in the lands of Fullarton. He died in April 1707. By his wife, Christian Smith, who died in May immediately following the decease of her husband, he had eight sons and four daughters.

William Coutts, son of Provost John Coutts.

William, eldest son of Provost John Coutts, baptized 20th June 1661, is described "of Fullarton," on being appointed a commissioner of supply in 1690.[2] He again appears as a commissioner of supply for the county of Forfar in 1704.[3] He was elected a magistrate of Montrose in 1691, and became provost of that burgh in 1704. He married Catherine Pearson, by whom he had four sons, John, Alexander, William, and James; also four daughters, Margaret, Christian, Jean, and Elizabeth.

John, second son of Provost John Coutts and Christian Smith, baptized 20th April 1665, settled in Montrose, and obtained office in the magistracy. He married Isobel Ochterlony, by whom he had a daughter, Christian, who was named after her grandmother.

Thomas, third son of Provost John Coutts, is, as a merchant in London, named with other promoters in the Act of the Scottish Parliament, passed in 1695, for establishing the "Company of Scotland trading to Africa and the Indies," better known as the Darien Company.[4]

Patrick, fourth son, was the ancestor of the famous bankers, and his descendants are afterwards fully traced.

Robert, fifth son, was baptized 22d June 1672.

[1] Acta Parl. Scot., viii. 610.
[2] *Ibid.*, ix. 144*b*.
[3] *Ibid.*, xi.
[4] *Ibid.*, ix. 377.

David, sixth son, was baptized 25th June 1674, and died June 1677.

James, seventh son, was baptized 27th April 1676. He married Jean Wanderheiden, by whom he had two sons—Hercules, baptized 10th August 1704, and James, baptized 10th February 1717.

Hercules, eighth and youngest son of Provost John Coutts, was baptized 16th May 1678.

Janet, eldest daughter, was baptized 12th May 1659.

Jean, second daughter, was baptized 27th March 1663.

Elizabeth, third daughter, was baptized 26th June 1679.

Christian, fourth daughter, was baptized March 1684.[1]

PATRICK COUTTS.

(Of the Montrose Branch.)

Patrick, fourth son of Provost John Coutts.

Patrick, fourth son of Provost John Coutts and Christian Smith, was baptized on 2d July 1669. Quitting Montrose, he settled in Edinburgh, and there became a general merchant. Having engaged in the export trade, he attained opulence. In 1697 he married, as his first wife, Jean, daughter of James Dunlop of Garnkirk, and widow of Robert Campbell of Northwoodside, Dean of Guild, Glasgow. By her former marriage, this lady was mother of Janet Campbell, wife of Thomas Haliburton of Newmains,

[1] Montrose Parish Registers. The Coutts family continued till a recent period to conduct business as merchants in Montrose; they were generally prosperous, and several of the members obtained municipal honours. James Coutts of Hallgreen had by his wife, Marion Renny, two daughters—Anna, the elder, baptized 24th February 1760, married, in 1780, Captain Ingram Ball, of the Queen's Regiment of Dragoons; Isobel, the second daughter, baptized 22d June 1761, married, in January 1781, Patrick Scrimgeour of Tealing (Parish Registers of Montrose).

whose daughter Barbara was grandmother of Sir Walter Scott.[1]

By his first wife, Jean Dunlop, Patrick Coutts had two sons, John and James, and a daughter, Christian. John, the elder son, was born on the 28th July 1699. James, the younger son, was baptized on the 24th January 1701. Christian was baptized on 19th March 1698.[2]

Patrick Coutts married, secondly, on 14th December 1702, Rachel Balfour, relict of William Forrester, Writer to the Signet, by whom he had a daughter, Janet, baptized 1st March 1704.[3] He died in 1704, leaving a fortune of £2500, which he stipulated should be divided among his three surviving children, two sons and a daughter. Under care of a paternal uncle, they were educated at Montrose. The daughter married John Stephen, merchant in Leith.

At an early age James, the younger son of Patrick Coutts, proceeded to London, where, engaging in merchandise, he amassed a fortune of £20,000, which he, dying a bachelor about 1740, bequeathed to his elder brother.

DESCENDANTS OF PATRICK COUTTS.

John, elder son of Patrick Coutts.

John Coutts, the elder son of Patrick Coutts, returned from Montrose to Edinburgh about the year 1718. After a mercantile apprenticeship of five years, he entered into business as a commission agent and dealer in grain. Rapidly acquiring capital and securing public confidence, he became a negotiator of bills, a business which the banks

[1] Genealogical Memoirs of Sir Walter Scott, Lond. 1877, p. xxxvii.
[2] Edinburgh Marriage and Baptismal Registers. [3] *Ibid.*

had not yet taken up. Extending his sphere of operations, he assumed successively as partners, Thomas Haliburton of Newmains, his family connexion; Archibald Trotter, son of Trotter of Castleshiel; and his relative, Robert Ramsay, brother of Sir Alexander Ramsay of Balmain.

By his marriage, which took place on 10th April 1730, he added considerably to his social status. His wife, Jean Stuart, an excellent domestic manager, and of lady-like manners, was second daughter of Sir John Stuart of Allanbank, Berwickshire. Her mother was a daughter of Ker of Morrison, in Berwickshire, by his wife Grizel, daughter of Sir John Cochrane, second son of the first Earl of Dundonald.

Respecting Miss Grizel Cochrane, afterwards Mrs Ker of Morrison, a remarkable anecdote has been preserved. Sir John Cochrane, having been concerned in the Rye House Plot, sought an asylum in Holland till the death of Charles II. In 1685 he joined in the insurrection of the Duke of Monmouth. Having been captured, he was taken to Edinburgh, and, on 3d July 1685, lodged as a prisoner in the Tolbooth. Arraigned as a traitor, he was condemned, and sentenced to execution. His daughter Grizel, then in her eighteenth year, believing that a movement which had been set on foot would probably lead to her father's receiving the royal pardon, if the execution could be delayed, determined to effect that purpose through her personal heroism. Disguising herself in male attire, and impersonating a highwayman, she successfully attacked the post-rider between Belford and Berwick, in the hope of securing the death-warrant. She succeeded in her object,

and having thus delayed the execution, procured time for the negotiations of her grandfather, the Earl of Dundonald, who, by a bribe of £5000, given to Father Peter, the Jesuit confessor of James II., secured to Sir John the royal pardon.[1]

At the time of his marriage, in 1730, John Coutts established his residence in one of the most aristocratic quarters of the city, one of the tall tenements of the High Street, situated in the Parliament Close. His dwelling, which consisted of five apartments, occupied a portion of the second floor, and was approached by a flight of steps known as the President's Stair, a Lord President of the Court of Session having formerly dwelt on the premises. Within his dwelling, small as it was, he conducted his business as a banker.

His progenitors had held high civic office at Montrose, and John Coutts arrived at a similar distinction in the Scottish capital. In 1730 he entered the town council of Edinburgh, and in 1742 was elected Lord Provost. Already he had succeeded to his brother's fortune, and, being otherwise opulent, he determined, by a course of splendid hospitality, to sustain the dignity of his office. His civic predecessors entertained in taverns at the public expense, but Lord Provost Coutts conducted the banquetings in his own dwelling. His elevation to the chief magistrateship, remarks one of his successors, "marked an era in civic annals."[2]

[1] For an interesting narrative of Grizel Cochrane's story, see "Stories of Old Families," by W. Chambers, LL.D., Edin. 1878, pp. 60-70.

[2] *Ibid.*, pp. 259-261.

Lord Provost Coutts held office till 1744, having been once re-elected. He was a promoter of the fine arts, and had his portrait painted by Allan Ramsay, the distinguished painter, son of Allan Ramsay the poet. This portrait, now in the possession of his descendant, the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, exhibits the civic chief as possessing handsome prominent features, with an expression of intellectual force. The costume is that of the reign of George II., a periwig resting on the shoulders, with a cravat and single-breasted coat of blue colour.[1]

Inheriting a delicate constitution, John Coutts fell into weak health. Hoping to benefit by a change of climate, he proceeded to Italy. He died at Nola, near Naples, in 1751, at the age of fifty-two.

Children of John Coutts.

By his wife, Jean Stuart, who died in 1736, he had five sons and a daughter, Margaret, who was born on 21st September 1734.[2]

Patrick, the eldest son of Lord Provost John Coutts, was born on 5th April 1731.[3] Before setting out on his journey to Italy, John Coutts executed a new deed of copartnery, by which Patrick, his eldest son, was included in the firm, which was then designated Coutts, Son, & Trotter.

John, the second son, born on 24th February 1732,[4] was bred to merchandise in Holland, and afterwards joined the firm, as did also two younger brothers. Through some

[1] W. Chambers's Stories of Old Families, p. 261.

[2] Genealogical Memoirs of Sir Walter Scott and Memorials of the Haliburtons, xxxviii., 60, 61.

[3] *Ibid.*, p. 60.

[4] *Ibid.*, p. 61.

disagreement Mr Trotter retired, his place in the partnership being occupied by John Stephen, who, as we have seen, had espoused the provost's sister.

The three remaining sons of Lord Provost John Coutts were James, born 10th March 1733; Thomas, born 7th September 1735; and Stewart, born 18th November 1736. The last died in infancy.[1]

James and Thomas Coutts, when they reached manhood, joined the Edinburgh house, which, prior to their father's death, had become a banking concern. As Thomas Stephen, a cousin, had also joined, it was felt that the firm might advantageously extend operations, and it was accordingly determined to open a branch establishment in London. John and James Coutts, with the elder Stephen, remained in Edinburgh, under the style of Coutts Brothers & Co.; while Patrick and Thomas Coutts, and their cousin, the younger Stephen, migrated to London, where they opened a banking-house in Jeffrey Square, St Mary Axe.[2]

Previously to 1761, Thomas Stephen, one of the partners of the London house, had died, and Patrick Coutts, the eldest brother, had abandoned the active prosecution of business for literary pursuits and foreign travel. He died at Hackney early in the present century.

John, a member of the Edinburgh house, was seized with an ailment, which terminated fatally at Bath in 1761. As James Coutts had previously retired from the firm and

[1] Genealogical Memoirs of Sir Walter Scott and Memorials of the Haliburtons, pp. xxxviii., 61.

[2] W. Chambers's Stories of Old Families, p. 262.

removed to London, the Edinburgh banking-house was henceforth conducted, first, by Mr William Forbes, formerly a clerk in the establishment; and, subsequently to 1774, by Mr Forbes in conjunction with Mr James Hunter, afterwards Hunter-Blair. After an existence of half a century under the style of Forbes, Hunter, & Co., the bank was, in 1831, merged in the Union Bank of Scotland.

James Coutts, another of the Edinburgh partners, married, in 1754, Mary Peagrim, niece of George Campbell, originally a goldsmith, but at that time a banker in the Strand; and thereafter, James Coutts, being received into partnership with Mr Campbell, whose firm then became Campbell & Coutts, withdrew from the Edinburgh house. On the death of his partner, Mr Campbell, in 1761, James Coutts assumed as partner his brother Thomas. James Coutts died in 1778, leaving a fortune of £70,000, which fell to an only daughter, who had married her cousin, a son of Sir John Stuart of Allanbank.

Thomas, fourth son of Lord Provost John Coutts.

On the death of his brother James, Thomas Coutts became sole manager of the banking concern, formerly Coutts & Campbell. He amassed an enormous fortune, and was admitted into the highest circles. An excellent early training during two sessions at the High School of Edinburgh,[1] together with his vast experience in correspondence, enabled him to appreciate literary composition, and to express himself with accuracy. When he sought recreation from the toils of business, he confined himself chiefly to the theatre. To his bounty several members of the histrionic profession were considerably

[1] Steven's History of the High School, Edin. 1849, p. 205.

indebted; but he reprehended solicitation, and any attempt made either to acquire a donation or forego a debt he keenly and emphatically resisted. When Mr John Pinkerton, the Scottish antiquary, asked him, in January 1815, to recommend him as a travelling companion, and to forego interest on a bond, the banker coolly received one of the applications, and emphatically refused the other. The following letter, written in his eightieth year, is an illustration of that stern tone which he assumed when addressing those whom he deemed, in monetary affairs, to be chargeable with imprudence:

"STRAND, January 31st, 1815.

"I have received the favour of your letter, asking me to withdraw the claim for interest on the sum I lent on the security of a house; but the footing upon which you have put the request is one I have uniformly, at all times, thought to be such as I ought to reject, and have rejected accordingly. The bankers in Scotland, and the country banks in England, are on a different plan from those of London. They circulate their own notes, and make payments in them; we give out no notes of our own, and, if we were to give interest at even 1 per cent. per annum, we should be losers by our business.

"We do not consider ourselves as being obliged to any one person who places money in our hands, however considerable; it is to the aggregate and general mass of society that we owe our situation, and to the credit our prudence and attention has obtained for us; and people deposit their money in our hands for their own advantage and conveniency, not from favour to us, nor do we desire to have it on any other terms.

"Probably you may not understand the explanation I have spent time in making, which I can very ill spare, and it may therefore answer no purpose, but it satisfies

myself, and I wish to show equal attention to all my employers, whether they have large or small sums in my hands, which indeed hardly ever occupies my attention.

"My attention is fully engrossed in doing business with honour and regularity, leaving the rest to the common chance and course of things. It surprises me that, though it every day appears that there is very little truth published in the newspapers, yet people will still believe what they read, especially abuse, or what they think is against the character or prudence of the person treated of. I saw some paragraphs, and heard of more, of what I had done for Mr Kean, in all which there was not a word of truth; though I see no reason why I might not, without offence to any one, have given Mr Kean anything I pleased. In doing any little matter in my power for any individual, I must add I never had any view to celebrity with the present age or with posterity.

"If I should know of any gentleman wanting a travelling companion abroad, I shall mention you to him; but it seldom happens that I am applied to in such matters."[1]

The allusion to Edmund Kean is to be accounted for on the ground that the banker had conceived that Pinkerton's letter was inspired by a rumour as to his having assisted this rising actor. In the tragedian's memoir it appears that, in the year 1815, Mrs Coutts visited Kean, and tendered him a gift of £50.[2]

Thomas Coutts died on the 24th of February 1822, at the age of eighty-seven—apparently the only member of his family who, for a number of generations, attained old age. His remains were deposited in the family vault at

[1] The Literary Correspondence of John Pinkerton, London, 1836, vol. ii., p. 459.

[2] Proctor's Life of Kean (1835), ii. 61.

Wroxton Abbey, in the county of Oxford. Many noble persons accompanied the funeral *cortège*, which was followed by the carriages of their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of York, Clarence, and Sussex.

The great banker married, first, in 1795, Susan Starkie, belonging to a yeoman family in Lancashire, and secondly, in 1815, Harriet, daughter of Mr Matthew Mellon, who, after being five years a widow, married, on the 16th June 1827, William Aubrey de Vere, ninth Duke of St Albans Of the first marriage were born three daughters, Susan, Frances, and Sophia.

Descendants of Thomas Coutts, the banker.

1. Susan, the eldest daughter, married, 28th February 1796, George Augustus, third Earl of Guildford, by whom she had two daughters, Georgiana, who died 25th August 1835, and Susan, who, on 18th November of the same year, married Colonel John Sydney Doyle, and on the death of her half-sister Maria, Marchioness of Bute, in 1841, became Baroness North.

2. Frances, second daughter of Thomas Coutts and Susan Starkie, married, 7th September 1800, John, first Marquis of Bute; she died 12th November 1832, leaving a son; also a daughter, Frances, who in 1823 married the present Earl of Harrowby, and died on 25th March 1859.

Lord Dudley-Coutts Stuart, son of the Marquis of Bute by his second wife, Frances Coutts, was born on 4th February 1803. He married, in 1824, Christiana Alexandrine Egypta, daughter of Lucien Bonaparte, Prince of Canino, and by her (died 19th May 1847) had Paul Amadeus Francis Coutts Stuart, an officer in the army. Lord Dudley-Coutts Stuart died on 17th November 1854.

3. Sophia, third and youngest daughter of Thomas Coutts, married, 5th August 1793, Sir Francis Burdett, Bart., the distinguished politician and patriot. Lady Burdett died in January 1844, leaving a son, now Sir Robert Burdett, Bart., also five daughters:

(1.) Sophia, the eldest, married, 23d October 1833, the Hon. Robert Otway Cave, M.P., of Castle Otway, county Tipperary. She died on 30th December 1849.

(2.) Susannah, second daughter, married, 29th November 1830, John Bettesworth Trevanion, Esq. of Caerhays, county Cornwall, who died in 1840.

(3.) Joanna Frances, third daughter, died 4th April 1862.

(4.) Clara Maria, fourth daughter, married, 27th April 1850, the Rev. James Drummond Money.

(5.) Angela Georgina, youngest daughter, received on the death of the Duchess of St Albans, her maternal grandfather's second wife, the entire estate, which Mr Coutts had by will placed at the duchess's disposal. Miss Angela Burdett now assumed, by royal licence, the name of Burdett-Coutts. On the 9th June 1871, she was raised to the peerage with the title of the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, in acknowledgment of acts of benevolence and assistance to public undertakings most liberally rendered. As the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, her name has become a household word. Unceasing in her efforts to relieve the sufferings of the lower animals, she also extends her generosity to the human species in every colony and on every shore. She has built and endowed churches, and founded dioceses. By speech and pen she has pleaded the cause of humanity,

and while inviting others to join in her benevolent labours, she has in all her enterprises been a foremost and munificent contributor. If, like other philanthropists, she has sustained disappointments, she has never allowed them to arrest the progress of her generosity. No benefactress, living or dead, is better entitled to the appellation of illustrious, or has fairer claim to an honoured memory.

FAMILY OF COLT OR COUTTS, IN FIFESHIRE.

From the family of Colt of that ilk, whose history will be subsequently given, descended the family of Coutts of Fifeshire, the immediate progenitor being Alexander Colt, brother of Thomas Colt of that ilk, who (*i.e.* Thomas) held lands near Perth, and was grandfather of Blaise Colt of Leonardley. Alexander Colt is mentioned in a charter of James IV., subscribed at Aberdeen on the 2d May 1497. He is again referred to in a charter under the great seal, dated 18th February 1506, as Alexander de Coutis. In this deed he grants to his wife, Elizabeth Ouchterearn or Coult, who seems to have been a Fifeshire heiress, part of the lands of Ouchterearn and Ouchtercoul. A younger son, John Colt, married, in 1530, Cristen Kirke, and died at St Andrews in 1562, leaving a daughter, Eufame, his heiress, whose relations endeavoured to prove her illegitimate in order to set aside her father's will. In the register of the kirk session of St Andrews there is a summons by her, and a decree headed, "Decretum literarum testimoniali . . . Colt," and dated, "die viij mensis Julij, anno 1562. The quhilk daye comperis Eufame Colt, and pro-

Alexander de Coutis, 1506.

duces ane edict vnder the great sayll of ye ministrie, lawfulle execut an dewly endorsit." This edict, the document goes on to say, summons all and sundry who have, or pretend to have, interest in proving her lawfully begotten in the bands of matrimony betwixt "Johne Colt and Cristen Kirke." It is sufficient to add that she proved her legitimacy and right to succession.

Alan Coutts, Chamberlain of Dunfermline.

At the time of the Reformation, Alan Cuttis or Cowttis became chamberlain of the Abbey of Dunfermline. He subscribed the abbey accounts in 1561 as "Allane Cuttis," and continued to hold office in 1563.[1] He obtained various lands in Fifeshire, formerly in possession of the abbey, including those of Eastburn, Grassmuirland, Randelcraigs, North Ward, Baith Bonalay, and others.[2]

The following curious entry occurs in the rental of Dunfermline Abbey in 1561:

"We mak na rentall of the coill of Wellyfuird, becaus it is bot ane casualitie, and in the zeiris of God lvj, lvij, lviij, large expenssis wes maid in wynning of the [samin], abone the soume of v^c^li; and in the lix zeiris the Erll of Arrane and his factouris intromettit therwith, and sen syne hes waisted the haill coill in sic sort that na proffet can be had therof without greit expensis in tyme cuming, as the haill cuntrie knawis.

"*Sic subscribitur*—Allane Couttis, with my hand, in name of my lord of Dumfermling."

On the 15th November 1581, Alan Couttis was succeeded in the lands of Spittal by his granddaughters,

[1] A document of this year, in which he is enjoined, along with two others, to keep the abbey in repair, is printed in the Privy Council Records (edited by J. Hill Burton), vol. i., p. 247.

[2] Reg. de Dunfermelyn, *passim*.

Mause and Euphemia Couttis, as heirs-portioners.[1] "Euphemia Coutis," and her son, James Melvill, obtained from the Abbey of Dunfermline, about the same period, a salt-pan near the burgh of Kirkcaldy.[2] Alan Coult, his elder son, married Mariota Welwood, a Fifeshire heiress; and Alexander, his younger son, is designated of Ochtertule.

Alan, son of Alan Coutts.

Alan Coult of Ochtertule died in 1597, with issue by his wife, Mariota Welwood, two sons, Alan and John, and four daughters, Mausia, Euphemia, Christina, and Elizabeth. To the daughters he, in his will, dated 1597, bequeathed various sums of money burdened upon his different lands. For his younger son, John, designated of Pitzocher, he made provision out of the barony of Pitliver. In the register of infeftments in the abbey lands, printed in the chartulary of Dunfermline, there are two entries in favour of John Coutts. The first of these records the granting of a charter of feu farm to "Allan Couttis of Bowhill, and John Couttis, his son, of half the lands of Baith Bonalay;" the second of a charter, dated 15th February 1594, confirming to "John Cowttis" the east half of the town and lands of Pityochir.[3] The youngest daughter, Elizabeth, married, first, John Abirerumbie, who settled upon her lands at Urquhart, and died in 1592; secondly, in 1599, John Brown of Tinmouth. A charter of Elizabeth Coutis, dated 26th February 1596, is thus recorded: "Carta Elizabethæ Coutis, agnatæ Balmano, sue filie ac Davidi Boswall ejus sponso, terrarum ecclesiasticarum de Ochtertule, Fife."

[1] Inquisitiones Speciales, Fife, 1471-1472.
[2] Reg. de Dunfermelyn, pp. 479, 493.
[3] *Ibid.*, p. 456.

Alan Couttis, eldest son of Alan Coult of Ochtertule and Mariota Welwood, succeeded his father in the lands of Wester Rosyth, Blarnebothie, and Overgrange, with others, in Fife. By his son, Captain Alan Coutis, he was, on the 31st January 1610, succeeded in the lands and half the town of Pitzocher, in the regality of Dunfermline, and the lands of Balbowgie, in the barony of Inverkeithing.[1] Captain Alan Coutis was, on the 14th May 1642, succeeded by his granddaughter, Christina, in the "lands of Baith-Cowtis and Baith-Bell; the lands de Northwaird; the lands of North Blarnbothie; and in the eighth part of the lands of Overgrange of Kinghornwester.[2] James Coutis, father or uncle of Christina Coutis, succeeded to the remainder of Alan Coutis's landed property. Among other lands bequeathed to him were those of Milnebeg, in which he was succeeded, in 1682, by his son James. This James Coutis, on the 24th July 1701, bequeathed to Captain James Coult, his namesake and remote connexion, the lands of Baledmounth and Slivelands, with others.[3]

Alan, son of Alan Coult.

His descendants.

James Coutis.

James Coutis.

Descended from the Fifeshire branch was the Rev. Robert Coutts, author of an esteemed volume of pulpit discourses, published posthumously. Son of the factor

[1] Inquisitiones Speciales, Fife, 207. [2] *Ibid.*, 1577.

[3] Besides members of the family mentioned above, various other persons of the name are met with in the records of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Among others, Donald Cowtis of Auchtertuil, in Fife, 22d July 1581 (Edin. Reg. Test.); William Coutis, 8th February 1549 (St Andrews Reg. Test.); Malie Coutis, spouse to William Edmond in Crail, 17th June 1591 (St Andrews Reg. Test.); Barbara Cowtis, spouse to Robert Forrester of Cowstoune, in the parish of Newtyle, Forfar, 2d February 1614 (St Andrews Reg. Test.).

of David, fifth Earl of Leven, he was born at Largo, Fifeshire, in 1771. Having completed his studies at the Universities of St Andrews and Edinburgh, he was licensed to preach on 8th June 1796. After acting for some time as assistant to the professor of mathematics at St Andrews, he was ordained ministerial assistant in the second charge of Brechin, on the 27th of December 1798. He died of consumption on 18th June 1803. Having married, on 7th July 1801, Janet, daughter of Robert M'Culloch, D.D., minister of Dysart (who died 26th May 1849), he had an only child, Robina, who married Dr James Spence, physician in Cupar-Fife.[1]

COLT OF THAT ILK, IN PERTHSHIRE.

Thomas Colt, 1496.

Thomas Colt or Coutts had, in 1496, a charter of lands in Perthshire, and was styled "of that ilk."[2] About 1496 he held lands in the burgh of Perth. In the family MSS. he is stated to have been a son of Thomas de Coult of Auchtercoul (*supra*, p. 11).

One of his sons was official of St Andrews, and it is recorded that on 21st December 1526, "Mr Thomas Cowltis, official of St Andrews, in the archidiaconate of Lothian, was presented to the perpetual vicarage of the parish church of Aberchirder, in the diocese of Moray, when it should happen to be vacant by resignation of Sir David Cristeson."[3] In a writ in possession of the Earl

[1] Fasti Eccl. Scot., iii. 816.

[2] MSS. *penes* Captain G. F. Russell Colt of Gartsherrie, and Reg. de Aberbrothock, ii. 296.

[3] Reg. de Aberbroth., ii., p. 459.

of Wharncliffe, Mr Thomas Coutis, perpetual vicar of Cargyll, is named as sitting in a consistorial court held in St Giles's Church, Edinburgh, on 13th November 1524.[1]

Blaise, another son, was involved in the Duke of Albany's conspiracy; he went to France in 1482, where he obtained an appointment at court. He married Marguerite, widow of a French nobleman, and daughter of Sieur de Rohan, a cadet of the famous house of that name. Fourteen children were born of the marriage. Several of the children, being Protestants, sought refuge in Great Britain. Blaise, son of Thomas Colt.

Blaise, son of Blaise Colt, was born at Paris in 1516, studied at the University of St Andrews, and became a merchant-burgess of Perth.[2] He latterly succeeded his grandfather, Thomas Colt of that ilk, in the lands of Leonardley, including part of the lands of Colt, Perthshire. He married Egidia Fleming, of the house of Fleming de Mounes, county of Perth, by whom he had seven sons,[3] Oliver, John, Thomas, Alexander, Blaise, William, and Adam, the last of whom founded the family of Colt of Inveresk; and several daughters, one of whom, Helen, married Richard Preston, Laird of Whitehill, and died June 21, 1576. She appears as Helen Coutis in the "Register of Dunfermline."[4] Blaise, son of Blaise Colt.

Oliver, the eldest son of Blaise Colt and Egidia Flem- Oliver, son of Blaise Colt (II.)

[1] Fifth Report of Royal Hist. Comm., app. 622.

[2] Family MSS. *penes* Captain G. F. Russell Colt; Reg. Mag. Sig.; Perth County Records, etc.

[3] Testaments in Commissariot Registers, Register of Sasines, and Reg. Mag. Sig., *passim*.

[4] P. 481; Perth Reg. Sas.

ing, was born at Perth in 1539, and educated at the University of St Andrews, where he graduated in 1566. Adopting the legal profession, he was admitted advocate on the 18th January 1573. Having served as Sheriff-depute of Edinburgh, he was appointed King's Advocate-depute and Justice-depute of the Council. In right of his wife, Isobel Henrysoun, a descendant of the family of Henrysoun of Fordel, he was created a burgess of Edinburgh.

Of the several children of Oliver Colt, Blaise appears as a regent in the University of Edinburgh.[1] Oliver, another of his sons, was called to the bar, but afterwards studied for the Church. Having acted as regent of humanity in the University of Edinburgh, he was appointed, in 1611, minister of the second charge of Canongate. In 1614 he was translated to Foulden, in Berwickshire; he died 10th September 1616. He married Helen, sister of Sir Thomas Kellie of Myreside, and eldest daughter, by a second marriage, of William Kellie of Eastbarns, Writer to the Signet, and had a son Robert.[2]

John Colt.

John Colt, second son of Blaise Colt and Egidia Fleming, became a merchant-burgess of Perth, and was elected provost of that city. He acquired various lands in and near Perth, some portions of which had been bequeathed to him by his father and uncles.[3] He married, in 1561, Elizabeth or Catherine Brown, daughter of Henry Brown of Lidgerthlaw, by whom he had several children: (1.) Blaise, the eldest son, born in 1562; (2.) Adam, in

[1] Cat. of Graduates of Univ. Edin. Edin. 1858, 8vo.

[2] Fasti Eccl. Scot., i. 88, 438.

[3] Town Council Records of Perth, *passim;* Perth Reg. of Sasines, vol. ii., fol. 89, 160.

1563; (3.) John, in 1565, who became proprietor of Newtonbank in the parish of Cupar, Perthshire, and whose descendant, John Colt, bequeathed to Alexander Colt an annual rent out of his lands; (4.) Catharine, born in 1562;[1] (5.) Agnes, in 1568; (6.) Elizabeth, in 1570; and (7.) Eline, the youngest, in 1571, who married Alexander Gordon of Cairnborrow, Aberdeenshire. 1112243

Blaise, the eldest son, born, as already stated, in 1562, became minister of Boddswin, and succeeded to his father's lands in Perthshire. His descendant, Alexander Colt, who died in 1698, bequeathed to John, his son, the lands of Coldertown, a portion of the lands of Balbrogie, half the lands of Cowbyres, called Souterhouse Braes, in the lordship of Cupar, and various annual rents from other lands in Perthshire. This John Colt married a daughter of Alexander Ireland of Drumsey, who bequeathed to him the lands of Millholl, Pittendenie, and Lednock, in the parish of Monedie. Alexander Colt, his successor, bequeathed his lands to John, his son, who again, at his decease about 1750, is found in possession of the following lands in Perthshire, viz.: Newtonbank, portions of Denhead, half Balbrogie and the Grange of Ower Bothrie, the lands of Souterhouse Braes, Millholl, Pittendenie, Lednock, and Cowbyres.[2]

Thomas Colt, third son of Blaise Colt and Egidia Thomas Colt.

[1] In January 1580, in the decreet-book of the Sheriff of Perth there is a decree in favour of Catharine Colt, daughter of umquhile John Colt, for sums of money due by one of her father's executors, her uncle, George Brown of Lidgerthlaw.

[2] Parochial Registers of Perthshire; Inquis. Spec., *passim;* Minute Books of Perth Sasines, vol. xiii., fol. 31, 64, 68, 105; vol. xiv., fol. 209; County Records at Sheriff-Clerk's office, Perth.

Fleming, was designated of Busbie. He married, in 1562, Margaret Bennett, of the family of Bennett of Borland, and by her had, with other issue, two sons, Henry and William. The latter was, in 1606, married by his uncle, Mr Adam Colt, minister of Inveresk, to Janet Harkiss at Musselburgh.

Alexander Colt.

Alexander Colt, fourth son of Blaise Colt and Egidia Fleming, had a son, Alexander, who married Mary Crooks, with whom he obtained the lands of Wester Garturk, Lanarkshire, and was presented to the vicarage of Rogartoun, in the Synod of Strathearn, by James VI., on 14th December 1577. His descendant "Major Alexander Colt or Coult, of Garturke," received, on 20th March 1678, a letter of protection from the Earl of Glencairn and others, discharging "all officers and souldiers from troubling and molesting him, his house, familie, tenants, cottars, and servants, att their highest peril."[1]

Major Alexander Colt of Garturk had two sons, Alexander and James. James, the younger son, is mentioned in the kirk session records of Old Monkland parish on 5th September 1686. Alexander, the elder son, was born in 1638, and succeeded his father on the 8th July 1692. He married Elizabeth Ferguson, by whom he had a son, James, and a daughter, Elizabeth. James, who was born in 1663, was served heir to his father on the death of the latter on 21st January 1698. James died unmarried in 1700, and was succeeded in the lands of Garturk by his sister, Elizabeth Crooks, who married her cousin, William Colt.

[1] Life of Dalzell of Binns, and Family MSS.

COLT OF INVERESK.

(*Branch of Colt of that Ilk.*)

Adam Colt, youngest son of Blaise Colt and Egidia Fleming, was born in 1562. He graduated at St Salvator's College, St Andrews, in 1585, and, in the following year, was elected a regent of the University of Edinburgh. Admitted minister of Borthwick in 1595, he was, in 1597, translated to Inveresk. In the General Assembly held at Burntisland, in May 1601, when the proposal came up to remove the three Edinburgh ministers because they were obnoxious to the king, Mr Colt warmly objected. "By that reasoun, he said, when he [the king] is angry at any minister in the country, he may, if he will, have him transported, the preparative whereof had already passed in St Andrews, which was very dangerous." King James, who was present, styled him a seditious knave, and asked why he supposed such a thing? "I suppose," he added, "if Mr Adam Colt would steal neate [cattle], then he should be hanged."[1] But the king, though publicly opposed by the minister of Inveresk, and sternly resenting his interference, nevertheless held him in consideration and respect. He was one of the eight ministers whom he summoned to London, in September 1606, to a conference, prior to the establishment of Episcopacy. From the following entry in the Treasurer's Accounts, dated May 1606, it has been supposed that Mr Colt was honoured with a holograph letter from his majesty: "Item, to ane boy passand of Edinburgh [to Inveresk House] with lettres that come

Adam Colt of Inveresk.

[1] Calderwood's History of the Kirk of Scotland, Edin. 1846, vi. 120.

from his Matie to Mr Adame Colt, xiij^s iiij^d." After being detained at court for ten months, he was allowed to return to Scotland, but in discharging his ministerial work he was confined within the bounds of his parish. He demitted his charge on 3d June 1641.[1] Purchasing a considerable estate in his parish in 1597, he built Inveresk House, which still remains the property of his family. His account of Inveresk parish was printed by the Maitland Club. He died on 24th March 1643.[2] His portrait, executed a few years before his death, is preserved at Gartsherrie. Influenced by religious zeal and patriotic ardour, he deserves commemoration among those who prominently contended for civil and religious freedom.

Oliver, son of Adam Colt.

Mr Adam Colt married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir James Johnstone of Elphinstone, in the county of Edinburgh, by his wife, Margaret, daughter of Sir John Melville of Raith. Of the marriage was born a son, Oliver, who graduated at the University of Edinburgh on 14th July 1621. Licensed to preach 5th July 1627, Oliver Colt was ordained assistant to his father on 5th December 1632. He was a member of the General Assembly of 1638. In 1649 he moved the Presbytery of Dalkeith for the erection of a chapel of ease at Musselburgh, in his parish. A document sent to the presbytery, and dated at Inveresk House, 10th April 1650, states that all the heritors had promised to contribute voluntarily to the

[1] Fasti Eccl. Scot., i. 285.

[2] "Att 7 in the morning, good Mr Adame Colt, my regent and minister at Inveresk, decessit, Fryday, 34th March 1643" (Sir Thomas Hope's Diary, p. 187).

building of a new kirk, called the kirk of Musselburgh, and that Mr John Sinclair and Mr Smeatoun had been appointed to "speak my Lord Cranstoun Riddel for contributing," while Mr Colt had undertaken to speak to Craigmillar, Westpans, and the rest.

Mr Oliver Colt latterly conformed to Episcopacy. From the Marquis of Montrose he had letters of protection, dated 20th August 1645, and he took shelter in Dundee in 1651, when the counties of Edinburgh and Haddington were overrun by the English army. He died at Inveresk House on 30th December 1679, at the age of eighty-two, and in the fifty-second year of his ministry.[1] Possessing a hearty humour, he was esteemed as a conversationalist.[2] By his tenants he was revered for his candour and benevolence. Though charged with latitudinarianism, he retained, to the close of his ministry, the respect and affection of his parishioners. His remains were deposited in the family burial-place, his tombstone being inscribed with the following epitaph:

"Memoriæ sacrum magistri Olivirii Colt, hujus ecclesiæ pastoris vigilantissimi, patientissimi, evangelistæ suavissimi, facundissimi, viri integerrimi, saluberrimi, post sedecem et amplius lustra, quorum 8, plus minus sincere, pie, candide, grege, cujus cura illi a creatore suo demandata, delegata, in vigilando exacta, tandem magis senio quam segnitie, sponte magis quam morbo in hunc tumulum delapsi. Obiit penultimo Decembris, anno Dom. MDCLXXIX. Ætatis suæ 82. Mœrens posuit magister Robertus Colt, juriscon. et filius et hæres.

[1] Fasti Eccl. Scot., i. 286.
Coltness Collection, p. 69, *note*.

"Quisquis es, amissos solitus lugere parentes
Huc ades, hos cineres collachrymare juvet,
Hic pietas, hic vera fides, hic pristina virtus,
Religionis honos et probitatis apex.
Huic epulæ servasse animas; huic lenta supellex,
Intemerata Dei gloria, cura gregis;
Cujus non paucos, variis erroribus actos,
Restituit; teneros, foverat ipse sinu.
Octoginta annos animo vultuque serenus,
Pacis amans vixit, pacis amator obiit.
Felicem O nimium vitam, mortemque beatam!
Contigit heu paucis, sic potuisse mori."[1]

Mr Oliver Colt married, 29th January 1634, Katherine, daughter of John Logan of Bonnytoun, merchant-burgess of Edinburgh, and brother of Logan of Restalrig, by his wife, Janet, daughter of John Keir of Spittal. In his wife's right, Mr Colt became a burgess of Edinburgh, 12th December 1649.

Children of Mr Oliver Colt.

Of the marriage were born four sons and five daughters. Margaret, the eldest daughter, was born 4th May 1636, and married Mr Archibald Cheisholm, minister successively of the parishes of Newbattle and Corstorphine, by whom she had a daughter, Jean. Margaret died before the 23d April 1680.[2]

Jean, the second daughter, born 1639, married, in 1663, William Menzies of Raw; they had a son, William, born 16th November 1665.

Anna, the third daughter, born 14th October 1640, married Archibald Ainslie, portioner of Preston.

Janet, fourth daughter, born 16th April 1643, married, 9th September 1675, Mr James Hunter, successively minister of Dunning, and of the second charge, Stirling.[3]

[1] Scottish Monuments and Tombstones, Grampian Club, vol. i., p. 165.
[2] Fasti Eccl. Scot., i., pp. 137, 295.
[3] *Ibid.*, ii., p. 678.

Katherine, the fifth daughter, born 27th November 1647, died young.[1]

Adam, eldest son of Mr Oliver Colt, born 22d January 1635, and John, second son, born 15th October 1638, died young and unmarried.

James, the fourth and youngest son, born 1st January 1649, studied at the University of Edinburgh, where he took the degree of M.A. 17th April 1675. He appears in the graduation list as "Jacobus Coult." Entering the army as a subaltern in Colonel Ramsay's regiment, about the year 1681, he was taken prisoner by Viscount Dundee at Perth in 1685, and was for many months carried about from place to place. He thus became a witness of nearly the whole of Dundee's engagements; he was present at the battle of Killiecrankie, and was for some time detained in the Isle of Mull. In his deposition made at Edinburgh, on 12th May 1690, before his Majesty's Commission and the Estates of Parliament, in the process of treason led against Viscount Dundee and his accomplices, he criminated many persons not previously known to have been concerned in the insurrection. He named among other supporters of Dundee, the Lairds of Blair and Pollok, Hector Maclean of Lochbuy, the Macdonalds of Glencoe, elder and younger, Sir William Wallace of Craigie, Stewart of Appin, Grant of Ballindalloch, Sir John Drummond, Major Middleton, Colin Mackenzie, brother of the Earl of Seaforth, the Laird of Pitcarrie, the Macdonalds of Auchterawe, Maclean of Ardgour, Sir John Maclean, Sir Archibald

[1] Inveresk Parish Register.

Kennedy of Culzean, and the chiefs of Locheil and Glengarry.[1]

By a charter under the great seal, dated 24th July 1701, Captain Colt succeeded to the lands of Baledmounth and Slivelands, in Fifeshire. He held a command in the Castle of Edinburgh in 1704.[2] In documents of 1709 and 1715, he is described as Major Colt. He married Margaret Carstairs, widow of the Rev. W. Mackay, minister of Markinch, and sister of the celebrated Principal William Carstairs of Edinburgh.[3]

Sir Robert Colt, third son of Oliver Colt.

Robert Colt, third and eldest surviving son of Mr Oliver Colt, minister of Inveresk, was born 14th November 1641. He studied at the University of Edinburgh, and was admitted advocate. He became Dean of Faculty, and as King's Solicitor was knighted by King James II. He died in 1699.[4]

By his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of William Syme of Aberbothrie Grange, advocate, he had six sons—all mentioned in his will—William, Adam, Oliver, Robert, Hugh (died young), and James, an officer in the 3d Buffs; also a daughter, Elizabeth.

William, son of Sir Robert Colt.

William, eldest son of Sir Robert Colt, was born 24th March 1671.[5] He married, at Edinburgh, in July 1700, Elizabeth Crooks of Garturk, in the parish of Old Monk-

[1] Acta Parl. Scot., ix., app. 54, 56.

[2] *Ibid.*, xi., app. 67.

[3] Fasti Eccl. Scot., ii. 553.

[4] Lord Fountainhall's Historical Notices, Edin. 1848, 4to, pp. 546, 736, 824; also Inveresk Parish Register.

[5] His baptism was witnessed by John Lord Elphinstone, James Lord Forrester, Sir Charles Maitland of Halltoun, Sir Adam Blair of Carbarrie, Sir William Sharp of Stanniehill, Sir William Thompson, and others (Inveresk Parish Register).

land, Lanarkshire, and had by her a son, Robert, and a daughter, Elizabeth.[1] The latter was born in 1701; she married James Waddell of Balquhatstone, Stirlingshire, by whom she had two sons and three daughters. The former (Robert Colt) was born in 1703, studied at the University of Glasgow, and was admitted an advocate at the Scottish bar. On his mother's death, 1st November 1741, he succeeded to the lands of Garturk. He died unmarried at an advanced age. By his will, dated 6th July 1771, he bequeathed his lands to his relative, Robert Colt, Esq., M.P., of Auldhame, Seacliff, and Inveresk.

Adam, son of Sir Robert Colt.

Adam, second son of Sir Robert Colt, was an advocate and Dean of Faculty in the reign of Queen Anne. He married Mary, daughter of —— Geddes of Rachan, and widow of William Graham, Esq., by whom he had several sons, of whom were Robert and Oliver. The former succeeded to Auldhame and other lands in the county of Haddington, the latter to Inveresk.

Oliver, son of Adam Colt.

On the death of his brother Robert, Oliver Colt succeeded to Auldhame Castle and Scoughall in Haddingtonshire, also to lands in Perthshire. On the 6th April 1755,[2] he married the Hon. Helen Stuart, daughter of Robert, seventh Lord Blantyre (died 1828), by whom he had four sons and five daughters. Margaret, the eldest daughter, designated of Rownhams House, Hants, died unmarried in 1836; Mary, second daughter, married General Pye of Wadley, Berkshire, and died at Richmond, about 1800, without issue; Helen, third daughter, married Sir David Rae,

[1] Registers of Parish of Old Monkland.
[2] Inveresk Parish Register.

Bart., of St Catharine's and Eskgrove, Edinburghshire—died in France about 1824, leaving issue five daughters, and was buried at Inveresk; Elizabeth, fourth daughter, married James Willis, Esq., a commissioner of H.M. Customs in London, and died in 1803;[1] and Marion, youngest daughter, born at Inveresk House, 25th May 1771, died young.

Adam, second son of Oliver Colt, served in the Indian Army, and at the time of his death at Batavia, on his way home from India in 1804, held the position of lieutenant-colonel. He died unmarried.

Oliver Colt, third son of Oliver Colt of Auldhame, was in the service of the East India Company at Madras, and purchased the estate of Rownhams, Hampshire. His illegitimate son, Major William Oliver Colt, succeeded to his estate in 1838. He married, in 1837, Jane, daughter of Daniel Eyre, Esq. of The Close, Salisbury, and died in 1853, leaving the estate of Rownhams to his widow, who bequeathed it to Frederick Eyre, Esq., her nephew.

William, fourth son of Oliver Colt and the Hon. Helen Stuart, was born at Inveresk House, 22d February 1766.

Robert, son of Oliver Colt.

Robert Colt, eldest son of Oliver Colt and the Hon. Helen Stuart, was born 22d September 1756, and, on his father's death in 1778, succeeded to the estates of Auldhame and Seacliffe in the county of Haddington, Inveresk in the county of Edinburgh, and Garturk, Gartsherrie, and Lochwood, in the county of Lanark; also to lands in England. He was for some time M.P. for Weymouth.

[1] Berry's County Genealogies, Hants (1833), p. 293.

He married Grace, youngest daughter of Lord President Dundas of Arniston, and niece of Henry, first Viscount Melville, by whom he had several children. He died in 1798, and was succeeded in his estates by his only surviving son, John Hamilton Colt. A daughter, Grace, died unmarried about the year 1800.

John Hamilton Colt of Auldhame, Seacliffe, Inveresk, and Gartsherrie, was born in 1789, and married Sarah, daughter of Colonel Joseph Mannering of The Downes, in the county of Kent, by whom he had three sons and five daughters. John Hamilton, son of Robert Colt.

Helen, the eldest daughter, married, 7th July 1831, Major William Osborne (died 1867), son of the Right Honourable Charles Osborne, M.P., and grandson of Sir William Osborne, Bart. of Newton, county Tipperary; Harriet Matilda, second daughter, died unmarried, 14th March 1829; Charlotte Frances, third daughter, died unmarried, 11th November 1825; Caroline Augusta, fourth daughter, is a nun of the Carmelite Order; Catherine Melville, fifth daughter, was married in 1846.

Frederick Montague, second son of John Hamilton Colt and Sarah Mannering, was born on 17th November 1817, and died on 25th June 1838.

Charles Russell, third son, born 18th May 1822, married, 22d February 1848, Geraldine Adelaide Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Sir Walter Raleigh Gilbert, Bart., G.C.B. (of the family of Gilbert of Compton Castle, Devonshire, and the Priory, Cornwall), a general in the Indian Army, and a member of the Council of India. He died on 11th August 1867, leaving two sons, Walter Raleigh

Gilbert and Charles; also four daughters. Captain Charles Colt served in the army, and on his retirement purchased the estate of Spring Grove, near Nelson, New Zealand, where he died.

John Hamilton, son of John Hamilton Colt.

John Hamilton Colt, eldest son of John Hamilton Colt and Sarah Mannering, was born on 19th August 1811, and, on his father's death in 1840, succeeded to the patrimonial estates. He died 9th December 1862, leaving by his marriage (13th May 1834) with Jane, second daughter of George Cole Bainbridge, Esq. of Gattonside House, county Roxburgh, five sons and five daughters.

Jane Osborne, eldest daughter, married, in 1870, Thomas Ogilvy, Esq., son of Thomas Ogilvy, Esq. of Corrimony, Inverness-shire; Grace Dundas, second daughter, died unmarried in 1843; Helen Rae, third daughter, married, in 1865, Captain Charles Erroll Hope, of the 25th King's Own Borderers, grandson of the Right Hon. Charles Hope of Grantown, Lord President of the Court of Session; Florence Mary, fourth daughter, married, in 1867, W. Macky, Esq., eldest son of James Thompson Macky of Belmont and Castlefinn, county Donegal, by whom he has issue. Ann Clara Georgina, fifth daughter, married, in July 1877, Francis Heathcote Wilson, Esq., barrister, eldest son and heir of the Rev. Robert Francis Wilson of Fernyhurst, Hants, and rector of Rownhams, by his wife Maria, daughter of the Rev. Francis and Lady Helena Trench, and niece of the Earl of Egmont.

Oliver Colt, eldest son of John Hamilton Colt of Gartsherrie, born on 12th May 1835, a lieutenant in the 7th

Royal Fusiliers, was killed at the storming of the Great Redan, Sebastopol, on 8th September 1855.

George Frederick Russell Colt, second son of John Hamilton Colt, succeeded to the estate of Gartsherrie on the death of his father in 1862. He was captain of the 23d Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and served with them throughout the Indian Mutiny, under Lord Clyde, taking part at the siege of Lucknow; and is a deputy-lieutenant of the county of Lanark. On the 28th June 1865, he married Julia Caroline, eldest daughter of the Rev. George Hutton, rector of Gate Burton and Knaith, Lincolnshire, by his wife Caroline, daughter of Robert Holden, Esq. of Nuttal Temple, Notts, and Darley Abbey; and by her has issue, a son, Ronald Sherwin Holden Stuart Rae, born at Gartsherrie, March 23, 1869.

John Hamilton Colt, third son, lieutenant R.N., born 1st August 1840, died at Inveresk House, 23d September 1863.

Charles Cumming, fourth son, born 30th August 1845, succeeded to Inveresk House, in terms of his father's will, on the death of his mother in 1878.

Henry Dundas, fifth and youngest son, born 2d November 1846, married, in 1873, Mary Seton, daughter of the late Thomas Ogilvy, Esq. of Corrimony, Inverness-shire, by his second wife, Margaret, daughter of the late William Fraser Tytler, Esq. of Belnain and Aldowrie, Inverness-shire. He, with his brother Charles, purchased the fine estancia of Las Macitas in the Argentine Republic.

FAMILY OF COLT IN THE UNITED STATES.

John Colt, a member of the Colts of that ilk, accompanied Dr Hooker to America in 1636, who first ministered to a congregation at Cambridge, near Boston, then called Newtown, and afterwards settled at Hartford, Connecticut. Dr Hooker returned to England, leaving at Hartford his *protégé*, who married a daughter of Joseph Fitch, receiving in dowry a house and lot called Padwick, in South Windsor, near Hartford, Connecticut. His father-in-law was ancestor of John Fitch, the inventor of the first application of steam in America. John Colt signed his name Coult. His first recorded signature is in 1646, at his daughter's baptism, on the 7th February of that year. John Colt had three sons, John, Joseph, and Abraham. In 1656 John Colt, John Adams (an ancestor of President John Adams), and others, were fined five shillings each for playing at cards at an unseasonable hour of night, the judges being Governor Webster, Lieutenant-Governor Mill, Mr Clerk, and Mr Willis.

In 1665 John Colt, described as of Padwick, subscribed a sum of money to raise the salary of the Presbyterian minister. On the 17th October 1669, he was approved freeman, and allowed as such to take the oath. He appears in 1675 as reporting to the Council that he had been shot at by Indians. On the 1st September of that year he reported that another party of Indians were discovered in the North Meadows, and measures were taken to resist them. He is named as an appraiser in

1679 and 1680. He married a daughter of John Skinner, and, in 1662, received a portion of his father-in-law's estate; he died at the age of ninety-five years. His son John, born at Hartford in 1658, married Mary Lord, and died in 1751, aged ninety-three, leaving, with other issue, a son John. His second son was Joseph Colt of Windsor; and his third was Henry Colt, who married Sarah Russell.

John, eldest son of John Colt and Mary Lord, had five sons, John, Joseph, Jabez, Benjamin, and Peter. In 1713 John Colt bequeathed a portion of his lands to his son Benjamin. About this date the names of John, Jabez, Joseph, and Benjamin Colt are attached to a petition for the erection of a church at East Windsor, seven miles from Hartford.

Jabez Colt executed his will 6th January 1756, therein disposing of a considerable estate. Peter, the fifth son, was commissary of the whole eastern department during the revolutionary war of 1776. Benjamin, the fourth son, married Miriam Harris, by whom he had, with other children, a son Benjamin, born 1740, who, joining the army as lieutenant, attained the rank of colonel. He died about the age of forty. By his wife Lucretia Ely, Colonel Benjamin Colt had, with other issue, a son Christopher, born at Hadley, Massachusetts, in 1780. He married Sarah Caldwell, of Scottish extraction, and died about the age of seventy.

Of the marriage of Christopher Colt and Sarah Caldwell were born ten children. One of the sons, James Benjamin Colt of St Louis and Hartford, was the distinguished

senator. He published a treatise known as "Colt on Government," and other works. He married Mary Barr Wilson, and had by her, with other issue, a son, James Benjamin, who now represents the American branch.[1]

Colonel Samuel Colt, a member of this branch, celebrated as the inventor of "Colt's revolver," was born at Hartford, 19th July 1814, and died 10th January 1862.

[1] The preceding facts in connection with the American branch are founded on documents in the possession of Captain G. F. Russell Colt of Gartsherrie.

ARMORIAL BEARINGS.

According to Nisbet,[1] John Coutts, sometime provost of Montrose, carried argent, a stag's head erased gules, and between the attirings a pheon azure, all within a bordure engrailed of the second.

The arms at present borne by the family of Colt are, argent, a stag's head erased gules, between the attirings a pheon azure. These arms, empaled with Johnstone, are engraved on a cup of 1598, which belonged to Adam Colt of Inveresk; they appear in his son's time empaled with those of Logan of Restalrig and Syme of Aberbothrie Grange, in the wall of Inveresk House. The plate and seals of the family have been similarly charged.

Oliver Colt of Auldhame, a younger son of Sir Robert Colt or Coult of Inveresk, bore the same arms with this difference—instead of a pheon azure, a cross crosslet between the attires gules, in chief a label of three points, and in base a crescent azure (or three crescents azure). These of course merged into the arms of the head branch, when Oliver Colt of Inveresk succeeded.

The arms of Colt or Coutts of Auchtercoul, in Aberdeenshire, were: a crescent or, between three stags' heads

[1] Heraldry (Edin. 1811), vol. i. 328.

erased gules, between the attirings a pheon azure, all within a bordure engrailed of the third.

The armorial bearings of the Baroness Burdett-Coutts are similar to those of the Colts of Inveresk, but are quartered with the Burdett arms. Quarterly, first and fourth, Coutts, argent, a stag's head caboshed gules, between the attires a pheon azure, the whole within a bordure embattled of the last, charged with four buckles or; second and third, Burdett, azure, two bars or, each charged with three martlets gules. *Supporters*—Dexter, a stag proper gorged with a riband argent, pendant therefrom an escutcheon of the arms of Coutts; sinister, a lion proper, pendant from a like riband an escutcheon of the arms of Burdett.

The arms of the English houses of the name of Colt are different from those of the Scottish families. In the heraldic chiselling on the monument at Rickmansworth the arms of John Colte are as follow: three shields; on the centre, quarterly, first and fourth, ermine, a fess between three colts galloping, sable; second and third, sable, a chevron vair between three boars' heads erased argent; dexter shield the same as the centre, empaling azure a fess ermine between three leopards passant, or, spotted sable; third shield, the sinister empalement of the dexter.[1]

The arms of the branch of Colt of Leominster, Herefordshire, are: argent, a fess between three colts at full speed.

[1] Clutterbuck's Hertford, i. 204.

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